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HUMAN EVENTS

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Documentary Films

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'An 'Alternate Media' By PHILIP CHEN

How the Left Wing Pushes Anti-U.S. Movies

The following article originally appeared as a three-part series in the *Herald-News*, Passaic-Clifton, N.J., from which it is reprinted with permission.

For \$35 a viewer can get a kick out of seeing the military ridiculed in "The Selling of the Pentagon," a 54-minute film put together in 1971 by CBS.

"Time is Running Out," a film which condemns "U.S. atrocities" in Indochina, can be seen for \$25.

But "Inside North Vietnam," a color film shot by Felix Greene, the British left-wing journalist, costs \$125, and "China!," another Greene production, goes for \$135.

All these so-called documentary films, plus scores of other short-subject films, can be rented (or bought for a higher price) from a little-known company called the American Documentary Films, Inc., in New York.

ADF films, which propagandize radical and leftist causes, are viewed nationally, according to company officials. "Churches and colleges are our largest groups," one said.

An investigation of American Documentary Films by the *Herald-News* disclosed a number of facts, including the finding that it is doing business with organizations heavily dominated by Communists.

Its films, most of which are produced by independents and ADF cameramen, include a few network products.

A source familiar with the ADF operation told the *Herald-News* these so-called "documentary films" are pure "propaganda" serving radical, anti-establishment and revolutionary causes.

"They're very subtle about it, but they're in it to express a point of view. They try to influence the young people, who I think, are poorly equipped to recognize propaganda when they see it," the source said.

Communist Board Member

Some of the ADF films are being shown in New Jersey, mostly by radical

groups that include the Peace Education Association of New Jersey. Colleges generally shun ADF products, although several, including William Patterson College, have heard about the film.

The Communist within ADF management ranks is Michael Myerson, 32, a member of the ADF board of directors and coordinator of a Cuban film festival ADF recently sponsored in New York.

The festival was shut down when Treasury men raided the theater and seized the film the firm was showing.

A rebel and an agitator, Myerson has been involved in radical student movements in California and has held the post of international secretary of the W.E.B. DuBois Club, a Marxist study group.

Sworn testimony before the House Committee on Internal Security identified Myerson as a member of the Peace Commission of the New York State Communist Party, U.S.A. He visited North Viet Nam in 1965 and was made an "honorary nephew" of Ho Chi Minh, the North Viet Nam Communist chief-tain.

Repeated attempts by the *Herald-News* to reach Myerson for an interview have been unsuccessful.

Jerry Stoll, a 45-year-old activist who heads the ADF board of directors, is also not available for an interview.

Founded in San Francisco in 1966, American Documentary Films opened its New York office in 1968. The ADF 1972 catalogue advances the firm as a non-profit organization, but the non-profit status seems to be largely self-proclaimed.

The Internal Revenue Service in New York and in Washington, D.C., could find no record of ever granting the firm tax-exempt status. An IRS spokesman said all ADF receipts are subject to federal taxation.

The New York State attorney general's office has begun an investigation into ADF for failing to file annual statements.

Herbert Wallenstein, who heads the charitable fraud bureau, said ADF is required by law to file because it is soliciting funds from the public. ADF has not filed a report since

it opened for business in New York, Wallenstein said.

In its 1972 catalogue, ADF lists more than 20 political organizations, which it said are involved in the production of ADF films.

Two of them are the New Mobilization Committee for Peace in Viet Nam and the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice. Both have been identified by the House Committee on Internal Security as being under Communist influence.

According to testimony before the committee in 1970-71 the New Mobilization Committee has operated from its inception with "significant Communist support."

"The national leadership of the New Mobilization Committee includes several key activists who have been shown either by public source data or by committee investigation to be or to have been members of such diverse Communist groups as the Communist Party, U.S.A.; W.E.B. DuBois Clubs of America; Labor Youth League; Revolutionary Workers party; Young Socialist Alliance; and Student Mobilization Committee."

As to the Peoples Coalition group, Rep. Richard H. Ichord (D.-Mo.), who heads the House committee, had this to say:

"...the committee received considerable documentary evidence and testimony establishing the significant presence of Communist Party, U.S.A. in PCPJ...."

The Cuban Film Festival, an ADF project, opened April 24 at the Olympia Theater, New York City.

It closed down the next day, after agents from the Treasury Department seized a Cuban film, "Days of Water," on grounds that ADF had failed to obtain a license to bring the film into the U.S.

"We saw an ad in the paper, checked our files and realized we had not licensed it. We then went and seized the film," a spokesman for the department's Foreign Assets Control in Washington, D.C., said.

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